



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

### Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor Bruce S. Flax, Councilor Dean G. Antipas, Councilor Diane Barber, Councilor Greg Grim, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Karen F. Morton, Councilor Bonnie Nault, Councilor Deb Peruzzotti, and Councilors Harry A. Watson**

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**Tuesday, January 3, 2017**

**7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

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**SPECIAL MEETING - REVISED**

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**I. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.*

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was observed and led by Mayor Flax.*

**III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

*None.*

**IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Mike Doyle, 15 Elm Street, Noank, stated that he supports the additional funds to repair the Noank Town Dock. He stated that it is a great asset and it is used by many residents and visitors. He offered his opinion, not as a member of the Permanent School Building Committee, that hiring an Owner's Representative for the 2020 School Plan will be well worth the cost and in the long run will save the Town money or get the best possible construction completed. He stated that an Owner's Representative will represent the Town by overseeing the architects and the construction firm. Mr. Doyle's written statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office.*

**V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**a. Approval of Minutes**

**2016-0300 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 20, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items**

**2016-0299 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Margaret & Frank Adams - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Diane & Robert Barber - \$400.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Raymond & Virginia Bousequet - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - \$230.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Fairview - Odd Fellows Home - \$ 350.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Barbara Frucht - \$70.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Groton Post Office Employees - \$175.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Anonymous- \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Northern Lights - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Old Mystic Fire District - \$387.50 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Barbara Palm - \$1,000 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Agatha & Stephen Simone - \$10.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Elaine Soan - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Ralph & Diana Stanzione - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Nancy d'Estang - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Theodore and Annette Ainslie - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Ann Aulabaugh - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Sina Bromley - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Marsha Cedrone - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Hector Correa - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Robert Delsignore - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 James and Karen Drakos - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Mary Eaves - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Linda Fox - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Michael and Marilyn Francis - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 James Harmon - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Bernetta and Richard Hughes - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Robert and Joanne McCoy - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Constance Miller - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Donald Mosher - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Saranne Murray - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Physical Therapy of Mystic - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Eleanor Ralls - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Elaine Reichard - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Martin and Solveig Schames - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Arthur and Marie Shaw - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Anthony Spano - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Stebbins Real Estate - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Linda and Michael Thompson - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Joyce Turgeon - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Louise Viscione - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Mary and Thomas Smith - \$15.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Katrina Bercaw - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2016-0001 Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2016 Standing Referral)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2016-0002 Republican Town Committee Appointments (2016 Standing Referral)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2016-0003 Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2016 Standing Referral)**

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

**2016-0004 Revised Position Descriptions (2016 Standing Referral)**

- 2016-0005      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Pending Litigation (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0006      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Labor Negotiations (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0007      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Property Acquisition/Sale (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0008      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0009      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0010      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0011      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Meeting with State Legislators (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0263      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2016 Standing Referral)
- 2016-0297      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.  
Noank Town Dock Project Update
- 2016-0311      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.  
RTM Reapportionment
- 2016-0298      This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.  
Groton 2020 School Initiative Update
- 2016-0298      This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

*Mayor Flax noted that there were forty or more generous donations from citizens and businesses throughout Groton. He thanked everyone for their generosity.*

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Moravsik reported that he had attended the Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee meeting held on January 3, 2017.*

*Councilor Watson stated the Mayor should send a letter to the Town Clerk noting that he has appointed Councilor Moravsik to the Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee.*

*Councilor Antipas reported that he had attended a Groton Fire District Officers dinner at the Seahorse Restaurant on December 21, 2016.*

*Mayor Flax reported the he had attended the Mashantucket Tribal Nation mixer on December 21, 2016. He reported that he, along with members of the Town and City Police, students from Fitch High school, and many citizens, helped distribute holiday baskets at the Human Services office on December 23, 2016. He noted that Town Attorney Eileen Duggan has been made a partner at the*

law firm of Suisman Shapiro and he offered the Town Council's congratulations. He mentioned that Councilors Morton, Nault, and Moravsik will be attending the upcoming Sub Base installation tour.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger noted that there will be an interview meeting of the Steakholders at the Town Hall Annex on January 12, 2017 at 12:30 p.m. He encouraged all of the Town Councilors to attend. He noted that on January 11, 2016 there will be a briefing from the Sub Base Captain and a tour of the Sub Base which will be limited to a small group.

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the RTM met on December 14, 2016 where Moderator Newsome read the Town Council referral 2016-0250, a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to enter into agreements to convert town owned street and parking lot lights to light-emitting diode (LED). He referred the matter to the Public Works Committee to report to the full RTM with their recommendation at the January 11, 2017 regular RTM meeting. She stated that Moderator Newsome reported that the Town Council will be taking action on Ordinance #229, which is an amendment to the Enterprise Zone. She stated that he explained that the RTM has 45 days to veto the ordinance before it is implemented. He referred the matter to the Finance Committee to report to the RTM at the January meeting. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that the next RTM meeting will be on January 11, 2016 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

**c. Clerk of the Council**

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that all 37 Justice of the Peace that were elected or appointed on November 8, 2016 have been administered the oath of office. She stated that their term of office runs from January 3, 2017 until January 4, 2021. She reported that she attended the Town Council Personnel Committee meeting on January 3, 2017.

**d. Town Manager**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced that the Groton Public Library will conduct another Passport Day on Saturday, January 7, 2017 from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. He stated that there is information available on the Town website and in the Town Manager's Weekly Status Report. He stated that the Joint Land Use Study is focusing on business development in towns surrounding the Groton New London Sub Base including the Town of Groton, Groton City, New London, Waterford, Montville, and Ledyard. He stated that the purpose of the study is to identify potential developments and activities that could be harmful to the Sub Base. He stated that during the last BRAC, there had been a lot of discussion about shutting down a fairly significant facility in Virginia. He noted that six Town Councilors are planning to attend the interview session. He stated that he had received notification from the Regional Resource Recovery Authority that the tipping fees will remain the same for the coming year. He noted that the Town Attorney's firm has donated a significant amount to the Spicer Fund. He reported that Captain Steve Sinagra has successfully graduated from the FBI Academy at Quantico. He noted that the Town has not had a graduate from this program in over ten years.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson**

Chairman Watson reported that the committee met on January 2, 2017 where they interviewed two applicants and review their appointment policy. He plans to give a full report at the next Town Council meeting in February.

**b. Rules - Chairman Antipas**

No meeting, no report.

**c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax**

No meeting, no report.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2016-0297 Noank Town Dock Project Update**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND BALANCE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NOANK TOWN DOCK

WHEREAS, construction funds were approved in the amount of \$106,000 in the FYE 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and \$34,000 in the FYE 17 CIP for reconstruction of the Noank Town Dock, repair of the seawall damaged by Superstorm Sandy, and ADA compliance, and

WHEREAS, a second round of bids for the project including contingency exceeded available funding, and additional funding will be required to undertake the project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the allocation of \$9,500 from Capital Reserve Fund Balance to FYE 2017 capital project 4) K) Noank Dock.

**A motion was made by Councilor Barber, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

*In response to Councilor Nault, Town Manager Oefinger stated that the \$95,000 is 8% of the total project. This is the amount required for the contingency, and not to avoid approval from the RTM.*

*Mayor Flax stated that the Council could request approval from the RTM.*

*There was no motion to send the resolution to the RTM.*

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 8 - Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Nault

**2016-0298 Groton 2020 School Initiative Update**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO SOLICIT STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS FROM ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS FOR DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GROTON 2020 PLAN

WHEREAS, the Groton 2020 School Facilities Initiative was approved at referendum in November, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has authorized the Town to engage the services of an Owner's Representative to manage the project under the Director of Public Works, including engaging qualified Architects and Construction Managers, and

WHEREAS, following the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process in selecting a qualified, experienced architectural firm to design the Groton 2020 plan would ensure eligibility for reimbursement of these costs by the state, and

WHEREAS, there is funding in the project budget for these types of professional services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Public Works, Gary Schneider, is authorized to proceed with the RFQ process to select the most qualified architectural firm to design the Groton 2020 Plan.

**A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.**

*In response to Councilor Grim, Town Manager Oefinger confirmed that the owner's representative will be working with the Director of Public Works.*

*In response to Councilor Morton, Town Manager Oefinger stated that a selection panel will be formed to choose an architect and Town Councilors will be included. Councilor Nault stated that she had volunteered to be on the selection committee during the last Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0311**

**RTM Reapportionment**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING COMPUTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING MEMBERSHIP**

WHEREAS, Section 4.3.3 of the Town Charter requires the Town Clerk to determine, within sixty days after each presidential election, the representation by voting district proportional to the number of electors residing in such district, and

WHEREAS, at the November 8, 2016 election, the following districts and number of electors in each district is as follows, and therefore, by computation, the number of representatives for each district is as follows,

DISTRICT	ELECTORS	REPRESENTATIVES
1	4,297	7
2	2,761	4
3	3,477	6
4	4,461	7
5	3,141	5
6	3,984	7
7	2,997	5
Total: 25,118		Total: 41

Now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the above membership representation is hereby approved by the Town Council and effective for the Town of Groton November 7, 2017 election.

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Councilor Antipas stated that the current membership of the RTM will be the same with the exception of the plurality in district four, which gains one representative, and district five, which loses one representative. He suggested that the Charter Revision Commission review the section 4.2.2 of the Town Charter.*

*Councilor Nault offered congratulations to former Town Mayor Heather Somers and former Town Councilor Joe de la Cruz for their inauguration as State Senator and State Representative.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Peruzzotti made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Nault. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher  
Groton Town Clerk, Clerk of the Council*